

From: Domenech, Douglas
To: Scott Hommel; Magallanes, Downey; Laura Rigas; Swift, Heather; James Cason; Micah Chambers; Daniel Jorjani; Mashburn, Lori; Bauserman, Christine; Caroline Boulton; Thiele, Aaron; Willens, Todd; Getto, Leila; David Bernhardt
Cc: Natalie Davis
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/10/17
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017 2:19:03 PM
Attachments: DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 8-10-17.docx

Attached and copied below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/10/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

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In Washington, DC. Office meetings and briefings.

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White House Report (Yesterday)

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- Many small inquiries, and many requests for interviews with Secretary Zinke.
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- High Country News: Interior's new sage grouse recommendations at a glance

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9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)

10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 57,151 (+4,075) acres and is 85 (+38)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 464 (-4) personnel, which includes 127 (+4) DOI personnel. There are 20 (no change) residential structures threatened and 150 (no change) evacuees. Native American cultural resources, utility lines, and pipelines remain threatened for the time being; however, additional perimeter growth is not expected, and risks to resources and utilities are expected to diminish greatly in the coming days. Significant resource demobilization is projected to begin today, and full containment is expected on August 12.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,681 (no change) acres. The fire is 31 (+8)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 384 (no change) personnel assigned, including 15 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Although some additional perimeter growth is expected, fire behavior has been moderated by a wetting rain that fell over the entire fire area. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park remain closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing At 10 Natural Wildlife Refuges.

The Washington Examiner (8/9, Jessen) reports that the Interior Department is seeking “to open or expand hunting and fishing recreational activities in 10 natural wildlife refuges.” In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “These 10 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife.” The change would “bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted,” according to the department.

Zinke Supports Opening Access To New Mexico Wilderness Site.

The AP (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “said Wednesday that federal land managers will be working to finalize a process for considering whether to accept a donation of land that will allow public access to a landlocked parcel of federally protected wilderness in northern New Mexico.” According to the article, “if approved, the donation of an adjacent parcel of ranch land will allow” for the Sabinoso Wilderness “to be accessed without trespassing.” Zinke “said expanding access to hunting, fishing and recreation on federal lands is a top priority.” He said in a statement, “I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways.”

Enviros Sue Over ‘Sham’ Monument Review.

The Daily Caller (8/9, Pearce) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity “filed a lawsuit Wednesday against President Donald Trump’s administration for withholding documents related to the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) ongoing review of national monuments designated by presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.” The Interior Department “has not answered Freedom of Information Act requests for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s schedule, communication records and any other documents related to a review of national monuments mandated by an April 26 Executive Order, according to a CBD press release.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift confirmed that “a recap of the secretary’s schedule is available online at the end of every month after all of his agency-related interactions have been recorded.”

Climate Reports May Slow Trump’s Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.

Bloomberg News (8/9, Sullivan) reports that “a pair of highly anticipated government studies...could complicate President Donald Trump’s effort to roll back federal climate regulations.” Bloomberg says “a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-backed report summarizing the global effects of climate change in 2016 is scheduled for release Thursday” and “its conclusion will be similar to previous years’ versions, according to people familiar with the report: Climate change is real, it’s man-made and it’s dangerous.” Meanwhile, “that report dovetails with a broader National Climate Assessment, which is due next year from the administration. Drafts of the study, compiled by scientists from across the federal government, show the effects of climate change in the U.S. are severe.” Analysts say “both reports are at odds with Trump’s contention that climate change is a ‘hoax’ and may hinder his moves to undo President Barack Obama’s efforts to address the issue.”

Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?

The Guardian (UK) (8/9, Grierson) reports that Guam’s location, “within range of North Korean medium- and long-range missiles, and military significance to the US make it a logical target for Pyongyang.” The US has “a naval base and coastguard station in the south, and an air force base in the north, which was used during the Vietnam war.” According to the article, “though there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the US

military's presence, it is also essential to the island's economy, second only to tourism."

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia. In an op-ed for the Detroit News (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that "North Korea's threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically." To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump "to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories." Lennox argues that "it's time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency."

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

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9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)
10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)
10/1 - Grand Junction Petroleum & Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)
10/4-5 - Montana Equipment Dealers Association (Whitefish, MT)
10/12 - Natural Areas Association Conference (Fort Collins, CO)

Emergency Management

In Idaho, the Powerline Fire has burned 57,151 (+4,075) acres and is 85 (+38)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 Incident Management Team (IMT) with 464 (-4) personnel, which includes 127 (+4) DOI personnel. There are 20 (no change) residential structures threatened and 150 (no change) evacuees. Native American cultural resources, utility lines, and pipelines remain threatened for the time being; however, additional perimeter growth is not expected, and risks to resources and utilities are expected to diminish greatly in the coming days. Significant resource demobilization is projected to begin today, and full containment is expected on August 12.

In Oregon, the Spruce Lake Fire in Crater Lake National Park (NPS) has burned 4,681 (no change) acres. The fire is 31 (+8)-percent contained and managed by a Type-2 IMT with 384 (no change) personnel assigned, including 15 (no change) DOI personnel. There are 39 (no change) residential and 13 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Although some additional perimeter growth is expected, fire behavior has been moderated by a wetting rain that fell over the entire fire area. Several trails in Crater Lake National Park remain closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. The Park's West Rim Road remains closed, and an evacuation notice has been issued for the Visitor Center at Rim Village, Park Headquarters, and Mazama Village. Full containment is expected on August 31.

Outside Media of Interest

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing At 10 Natural Wildlife Refuges.

The Washington Examiner (8/9, Jessen) reports that the Interior Department is seeking “to open or expand hunting and fishing recreational activities in 10 natural wildlife refuges.” In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “These 10 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife.” The change would “bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted,” according to the department.

Zinke Supports Opening Access To New Mexico Wilderness Site.

The AP (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “said Wednesday that federal land managers will be working to finalize a process for considering whether to accept a donation of land that will allow public access to a landlocked parcel of federally protected wilderness in northern New Mexico.” According to the article, “if approved, the donation of an adjacent parcel of ranch land will allow” for the Sabinoso Wilderness “to be accessed without trespassing.” Zinke “said expanding access to hunting, fishing and recreation on federal lands is a top priority.” He said in a statement, “I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways.”

Enviros Sue Over ‘Sham’ Monument Review.

The Daily Caller (8/9, Pearce) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity “filed a lawsuit Wednesday against President Donald Trump’s administration for withholding documents related to the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) ongoing review of national monuments designated by presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.” The Interior Department “has not answered Freedom of Information Act requests for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s schedule, communication records and any other documents related to a review of national monuments mandated by an April 26 Executive Order, according to a CBD press release.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift confirmed that “a recap of the secretary’s schedule is available online at the end of every month after all of his agency-related interactions have been recorded.”

Climate Reports May Slow Trump’s Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.

Bloomberg News (8/9, Sullivan) reports that “a pair of highly anticipated government studies...could complicate President Donald Trump’s effort to roll back federal climate regulations.” Bloomberg says “a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-backed report summarizing the global effects of climate change in 2016 is scheduled for release Thursday” and “its conclusion will be similar to previous years’ versions, according to people familiar with the report: Climate change is real, it’s man-made and it’s dangerous.” Meanwhile, “that report dovetails with a broader National Climate Assessment, which is due next year from the administration. Drafts of the study, compiled by scientists from across the federal government, show the effects of climate change in the U.S. are severe.” Analysts say “both reports are at odds with Trump’s contention that climate change is a ‘hoax’ and may hinder his moves to undo President Barack Obama’s efforts to address the issue.”

Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?

The Guardian (UK) (8/9, Grierson) reports that Guam’s location, “within range of North Korean medium- and long-range missiles, and military significance to the US make it a logical target for Pyongyang.” The US has “a naval base and coastguard station in the south, and an air force base in the north, which was

used during the Vietnam war.” According to the article, “though there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the US military’s presence, it is also essential to the island’s economy, second only to tourism.”

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia. In an op-ed for the Detroit News (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that “North Korea’s threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically.” To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump “to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories.” Lennox argues that “it’s time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency.”

Federal Register Listings

No items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.